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11 January 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Abel Case

1. This memorandum is for information only.

2. James Donovan called to say he had just received a letter from Abel saying that recently his wife had written suggesting that he appeal to the new Administration for clemency. Abel says he wrote back to her stating it would not be appropriate for him to appeal but she should appeal to the new Administration in a manner similar to that in which the Powers' family had appealed to Khrushchev. Abel asked if Donovan would write his wife giving her some advice in this regard.

3. This may have no significance other than a normal wifely interest. However, it could be part of the general Soviet program towards the new Administration and might conceivably be an overture in connection with the RB-47 pilots or even Powers.

4. I am exploring possible implications with DD/P, State, and Justice.

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

Orig-Addressee
1-DDCI
STAT 1-O/DCI [redacted]
1-ADDP/A
1-C/SR
1-AC/CI
1-C/Admin/DPD

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